

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a carrier core material containing at least one metal oxide ($M^L O$) having a melting point of not higher than $1000^\circ C$ and at least one metal oxide ($M^H O$) having a melting point of not lower than $1800^\circ C$, wherein the metal (M^H) for constituting the metal oxide ($M^H O$) has an electrical resistivity of not less than $10^{-5} \Omega \cdot cm$.

Also disclosed is a two-component developing agent comprising a coated carrier, which comprises the carrier core material coated with a resin, and toner particles.

Further disclosed is an image forming method comprising developing an electrostatic latent image formed on a photosensitive member with the two-component developing agent using an alternating electric field. The carrier core material and the coated carrier have high magnetization and are free from occurrence of leakage of electric charge over a wide range of electric field from low electric field to high electric field. According to the two-component developing agent of the invention, an excellent image can be formed.